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Sen. Allen announces DEQ to begin cleanup in two northern Michigan communities

LANSING – Two local communities in northern Michigan will benefit from funds totaling \$425,000 for environmental cleanup, announced state Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City.

The Department of Environmental Quality has authorized funding for environmental cleanup in both Boyne City and Sault Ste. Marie.

“The news of these cleanup projects is great for northern Michigan, both of these cities will benefit greatly from this cleanup work,” Allen said. “Keeping our environment clean and safe is crucial to the welfare of our families, as well as our tourism industry.”

The DEQ will spend approximately \$250,000 to remove contaminated soil near the Boyne River in Riverside Park. Polychlorinated biphenyls, which are known animal and probable human carcinogens, have been detected in the soil. From the 1940s through the 1960s, residents and businesses in the area disposed of solid wastes on the property now known as Riverside Park.

The contaminated soil will be removed, site restoration will be conducted and a study will be done by the DEQ to make sure the property is safe for public use before the city includes the area into a recreational trail system.

In Sault Ste. Marie, the DEQ will spend \$175,000 to conduct cleanup activities at the abandoned Premium Oil Bulk Plant site. The site is the former location of a 250 gallon release of diesel fuels, as well as later petroleum spills.

The DEQ conducted an emergency cleanup response in 2000 to address the immediate risks following the large petroleum spill. Additional cleanup plans include investigating the extent of soil and groundwater contamination; tank removal; drum and container disposal; demolition and disposal of the sheds; and excavation and disposal of the contaminated soil.

“Thanks to these cleanup projects, residents of northern Michigan will be able to feel safer about where they live, work or play,” Allen said. “We must continue to be vigilant stewards of our environment, as it plays an essential role in the health of our state and our economy.”

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